Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------127941 201225Z /45
P R 201102Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2941
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 7404

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MNUC, PK, US
SUBJECT: FRENCH AMBASSADOR ON REPROCESSING

1. FRENCH AMB IN CALL ON ME TODAY SAID HE HAS RECENTLY TRIED TO PERSUADE GOP OFFICIALS OF THE ADVISABILITY OF SLOWING DOWN OR CANCELLING PLANS AND TRANSFERS IN CONNECTION WITH REPROCESSING PLANT. HE, AND, HE SAYS, HIS GOVERNMENT HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT INSTABILITY IN PAKISTAN AS WELL AS ABOUT GOP'S REAL INTENTIONS IN ACQUIRING THE PLANT. SO FAR HE HAS HAD NO SUCCESS WHATEVER IN DISCUSSIONS HERE.

2. HE SAID SECRETARY GENERAL AGHA SHAHI'S VISIT TO PARIS, FOR WHICH GOP HAS BEEN PRESSING HARD, HAS FINALLY BEEN APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE BY GOF, WITH DATE YET TO BE WORKED OUT. AGHA SHAHI WILL CARRY A MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF GOVT GEN ZIA; HE WILL BE RECEIVED BY FRENCH FONMIN, WHO WILL MAKE ROOM IN HIS CROWDED SCHEDULE SOON. AGHA SHAHI IS AT PRESENT TOURING ARAB STATES, AND WILL RETURN TO ISLAMABAD THIS WEEKEND. FRENCH AMB SAID HE HAD STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT PARIS SHOULD TRY TO CONVINCE AGHA SAHI THAT REPROCESSING PLANT IS
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NEITHER NECESSARY NOR ECONOMIC, AND THAT GOF SHOULD ATTEMPT TO OFFER ALTERNATIVES, PERHAPS IN CONNECTION WITH OTHER POWER REACTORS THAT FRANCE MIGHT SUPPLY.

3. I TOLD FRENCH AMB OF MY DEMARCH TO GEN ZIA OF JULY 9 AND OF NEGATIVE REPLY RECEIVED FROM GOP JULY 17, ASKING HIM TO KEEP THE MATTER VERY CLOSE. I POINTED

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OUT THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT GOP INTENTIONS IN REPROCESSING ARE SUBJECT TO SERIOUS DOUBT; HE AGREED. HE ALSO AGREED THAT IT WOULD SERVE NOBODY'S INTEREST TO HAVE SITUATION CREATED WHERE USG-GOP RELATIONS ARE SERIOUSLY DISRUPTED, AND HE HOPED "THINGS COULD BE SLOWED DOWN" EITHER UNILATERALLY BY FRANCE, OR BY AGREEMENT WITH GOP SO THAT IT DID NOT HAPPEN.

4. I DID NOT MENTION SHAH'S VIEWS OR HIS EXPRESSIONS THEREOF TO GOP OFFICIALS. I WOULD LIKE TO DO SO UNLESS AMB SULLIVAN HAS OBJECTION. I DID DESCRIBE VISIT TO PAKISTAN OF JOE NYE AND OTHERS, JULY 29-31.

5. COMMENT: THERE IS EVIDENTLY HEIGHTENED FRENCH UNEASINESS ABOUT REPROCESSING PLANT FOR PAKISTAN. CERTAINLY, FRENCH AMBASSADOR HAD PREVIOUSLY NOT EXPRESSED HIMSELF IN ABOVE WAY, AND SO FAR AS WE KNOW HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY TAKEN INTIATIVE TO SUGGEST TO GOP THAT PLANT IS ILL-ADVISED. HOWEVER FRENCH STILL SEEM HUNG-UP ON PRINCIPLE OF CARRYING OUT CONTRACT UNLESS PAKISTANIS CAN BE INDUCED TO REQUEST OTHERWISE.
HUMMEL

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